

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL:MS

APPROVED BY D - DLAMB

EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020942

PARIS PLS PASS TO ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN ONLY 1/29 (MORN)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SP, US

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF SPAIN  
OSORIO AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE  
CHRISTOPHER (LATER JOINED BY THE SECRETARY)

1. THE MEETING LASTED APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES, THE  
SECRETARY WAS PRESENT FOR THE LAST 20 MINUTES, AND  
PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BOTH AT THE BEGINNING AND AT THE  
END. SUBSTANCE OF TALK FOLLOWS:

2. U.S. POSITION ON SPAIN: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, AND  
LATER THE SECRETARY, SAID THE U.S. STRONGLY ENDORSES  
AND SUPPORTS SPAIN'S EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT A DEMOCRATIC  
EVOLUTION. WE ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROGRESS TO  
DATE.

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3. SPAIN'S INTERNAL POLITICS (OSORIO'S DESCRIPTION):

A. THOUGH LEFT AND RIGHT EXTREMES WILL POSE PROBLEMS,  
THE KING AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE PREPARED TO MEET THEM  
AND WILL NOT RPT NOT SWERVE FROM THEIR DETERMINATION  
TO SEE THE DEMOCRATIC REFORM PROGRAM SUCCEED. OF COURSE  
ANY BASIC POLITICAL CHANGE BRINGS STRESS AND IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT ALL RISKS OF VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY

SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOME FOREIGN ELEMENTS MIGHT BE BEHIND PART OF IT. BUT THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECENT EVENTS IS THAT THE OPPOSITION SHOWED ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAM FOR DEMOCRACY.

B. SPAIN'S POLITICAL FORCES ARE FORMING INTO THREE GROUPS, THE CONSERVATIVE RIGHT WHICH WOULD LIKE TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK, THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT WHICH SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT, AND VARIOUS LEFT AND SOCIALIST GROUPS WHO ALSO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT.

C. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY OUT HONESTLY AND WITH COMPLETE NEUTRALITY THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MAY OR JUNE. ALTHOUGH SUAREZ AT FIRST PLANNED NOT TO RUN SO AS TO AVOID ANY TAIN, HOWEVER IMPLICIT, IN THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS, RECENT IMPORTUNINGS FROM PROMINENT SPANIARDS HAVE PERSUADED SUAREZ TO RECONSIDER. LAST MONDAY IN SANTANDER RUIZ JIMENEZ TOLD A GROUP THAT IF SUAREZ RUNS HE WOULD WIN MORE VOTES THAN ALL OTHER POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR PRIME MINISTER PUT TOGETHER.

4. SPAIN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION. OSORIO SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS OPTIMISTIC. HE REFERRED TO FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT STATEMENTS IN MADRID THAT THE FRG HAS CONCLUDED THAT SPAIN'S ECONOMY IS NOT AS BADLY OFF AS SOME SAY. DESPITE THE EFFECTS OF WORLD RECESSION, OIL PRICES AND A LOSS OF EUROPEAN

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JOBS FOR EMIGRANT WORKERS, SPAIN'S LABOR FORCE IS YOUNG AND HARD WORKING, AND THE COUNTRY'S POLICIES ARE SENSIBLE. SPAIN SHOULD MOVE INTO FULL RECOVERY BY 1979. THE SITUATION WILL BE DIFFICULT UNTIL THEN. MR. CHRISTOPHER NOTED OUR HOPE THAT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE RECOVERY IN THE U.S., THE FRG AND FRANCE WOULD BENEFIT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, AND POINTED OUT THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE A CENTRAL ASPECT OF THE VICE PRSIDENT'S TALKS ON HIS CURRENT TRIP.

5. SUAREZ VISIT. OSORIO SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN EARLIER IN THE DAY HE HAD BEEN ASKED REPEATEDLY WHAT THE U.S. CAN DO TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN SPAIN'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THE ANSWER HE SAID, IS TO SHOW SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR SPAIN'S LEADERS. THIS IS WHY A VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE VERY POSITIVE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE WON BY A PARTY OR A COMBINATION

OF PARTIES THAT WILL BE PLEDGED TO CONTINUE THE  
PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF  
POLITICAL TRANSITION, AND THAT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS --  
LIKELY TO BE A MAJOR SUBJECT OF DEBATE IN THE ELECTION  
CAMPAIGN -- THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS FIRMLY FIXED  
SPAIN'S COURSE TOWARD EUROPE AND THE U.S. AS THE TWO  
KEY "COMPASS POINTS." IN REPLY MR. CHRISTOPHER SAID  
WE AGREE THAT THIS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ORIENTATION IS GOOD  
FOR SPAIN AND FOR EUROPE AS WELL AS FOR THE U.S. WITH  
REGARD TO A SUAREZ VISIT, HE SAID THAT WE UNDERSTAND  
THE IMPORTANCE OF A POSSIBLE VISIT, WE HOPE TO BE  
ABLE TO SETTLE ON A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME FOR THE  
VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND WE WILL BE IN TOUCH.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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